

Senate File 420 - Reprinted

SENATE FILE 420
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 310)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 14, 2011)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the planning, approval, supplementary
2 weighting, and operation of regional academies and including
3 effective date and applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.11, subsection 5, Code 2011, is
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 261E.9, subsections 1 through 3, Code 2011,
4 are amended to read as follows:

5 1. a. A regional academy is a program established by
6 a school district to which multiple school districts send
7 students in grades nine seven through twelve, ~~and which may~~
8 ~~include internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the~~
9 ~~Iowa communications network. A regional academy shall include~~
10 ~~in its curriculum advanced level courses and may include in its~~
11 ~~curriculum career and technical courses. A school district~~
12 establishing a regional academy may collaborate and partner
13 with, enter into an agreement pursuant to chapter 28E with,
14 or enter into a contract with, one or more school districts,
15 area education agencies, community colleges, accredited public
16 and private postsecondary institutions, accredited nonpublic
17 schools, businesses, and private agencies located within or
18 outside of the state.

19 b. The purpose of a regional academy established pursuant
20 to this section shall be to build a culture of innovation for
21 students and community, to diversify educational and economic
22 opportunities by engaging in learning experiences that involve
23 students in complex, real-world projects, and to develop
24 regional or global innovation networks.

25 c. If a school district establishing a regional academy in
26 accordance with this section submits a plan to the department
27 for approval that demonstrates how the regional academy will
28 increase and assess student achievement or increase and assess
29 competency-based learning opportunities for students, the
30 department may waive or modify any statutory or regulatory
31 provision applicable to school districts except the department
32 shall not waive or modify any statutory or regulatory provision
33 relating to requirements applicable to school districts under
34 chapters 11, 21, 22, 216, 216A, 256B, 279, 284, and 285; or
35 relating to contracts with and discharge of teachers and

1 administrators under chapters 20 and 279; or relating to audit
2 requirements under section 256.9, subsection 20, and section
3 279.29.

4 2. a. A regional academy ~~course shall not qualify as a~~
5 ~~concurrent enrollment course~~ include in its curriculum advanced
6 level courses.

7 b. A regional academy may include in its curriculum virtual
8 or internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the Iowa
9 communications network, career and technical courses, core
10 curriculum coursework, courses required pursuant to section
11 256.7, subsection 26, or section 256.11, subsections 4 and 5,
12 and asynchronous learning networks.

13 3. School districts participating in regional academies are
14 eligible for supplementary weighting as provided in section
15 257.11, subsection 2. The school districts participating in
16 the regional academy shall enter into an agreement on how the
17 supplementary weighting received shall be used and shall submit
18 the agreement to the department for approval.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY. This Act
20 takes effect July 1, 2012, and is applicable to school years
21 beginning on or after July 1, 2012.